

### REMARKS

The claims have been amended by rewriting claim 9, canceling claims 1-8 and 13-16. Claims 9-12 remain in the application.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph:

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 5 is canceled by this amendment, rendering the rejection moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1-8 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 1-8 and 13-16 are canceled by this amendment, rendering their rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 9-12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all other limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 9 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claims 7 and 1. Applicants therefore believe that amended claim 9 and claims 10-12 are now allowable.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

The Applicants believe that the subject application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited by the Applicants.

In the event that the Examiner deems the present application non-allowable, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the Applicant's attorney or agent at the number indicated below so that the prosecution of the present case may be advanced by the clarification of any continuing rejection.

Accordingly, this application is believed to be in proper form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

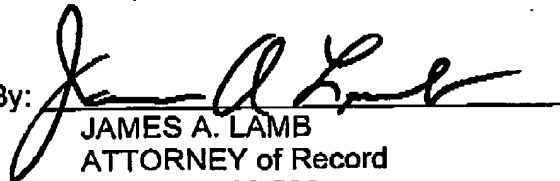
Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to 502117.

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Respectfully submitted,

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